

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1996 Volume 66 Number 4



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FRONT COVER: Red Crossbill near Iowa City, Johnson County, 13 July 1996. Photo by Thomas H Kent.

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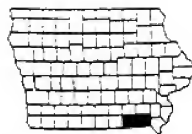
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HENSLOW'S SPARROW NESTING OBSERVATIONS, HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS, AND HISTORY IN IOWA

PETER B. MELDE AND ROLF R. KOFORD

Early observers found Henslow's Sparrow to be a common species in Iowa. Keyes and Williams (1889), based on work in Polk County, considered Henslow's a common summer resident in Iowa. Trippe (1873), working in Mahaska and Decatur counties, found them common and breeding. In western Iowa, Allen (1868) described the species as "less common" than Grasshopper Sparrows which he considered "common." Anderson (1907:317) stated that the species was "a tolerably common summer resident in some portions of the state and appears to be rare in others." The species population apparently declined in the years after Anderson's publication.



The loss of native habitat and consequently native birds to agriculture was noted by DuMont (1931) in Polk County and by Tinker (1914) in Clay and Palo Alto counties, presumably reflecting trends in the rest of Iowa. DuMont (1933:10) considered the species a "fairly rare migrant" and noted "...the seeming disappearance of the Henslow's Sparrow. There have been no breeding records in a number of years." L. J Bennett (*in* Hyde 1939:13) attributed this scarcity of records to the lack of observers and noted Henslow's in northwestern Iowa throughout the 1932-1937 breeding seasons. The species was still found on Kalsow Prairie in Pocahontas County (Youngworth 1953) and Hayden Prairie in Howard County (Ennis 1959) in the 1950s. Recently, only two Iowa sites, Hayden Prairie (Kent and Bendorf 1984) and the Lake Sugema area in Van Buren County (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1994), have provided observers with reliable annual sightings.

Henslow's Sparrow was listed nationally as a Species of Management Concern in 1987 and 1995 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1995). The purpose of this paper is to aid observers in locating the species by reporting observations of the birds' habits and the habitat in which they have been found. By using this information, birders may increase the number of sightings and identify new areas occupied by Henslow's Sparrow, contributing to our limited knowledge of the species. We also document the two nests we found.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Survey work was concentrated in Davis, Lee, and Van Buren counties in southeastern Iowa from 17 June through 15 August 1996. Private pasture, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields, Eldon Wildlife Area in Davis County, and Indian Creek Wildlife Area (Lake Sugema) in Van Buren County were targeted as potential Henslow's Sparrow sites. Roadside surveys were conducted in areas with a high percentage of CRP land. Populations in selected fields containing singing males were surveyed using point counts. Vegetation data were collected in the selected fields to quantify habitat preferences.

RESULTS

Two nests of Henslow's Sparrow were found in 1996. The nests were discovered on 2 July 1996, on the Indian Creek Wildlife Area (Lake Sugema), Van Buren County, and on 18 July 1996, on the Eldon Wildlife Area, Davis County.

The Lake Sugema nest was found in the northwestern part of the wildlife area, in a field of mostly smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) interspersed with goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), outlined by trees in the fencerows. As one of us (PM) was walking through the field, a sparrow with dark-brown markings on its wings and back flushed directly from the nest. The bird flew about 8 meters (m) before dropping to the vegetation. There was no distraction display, such as one often observes in Grasshopper Sparrows (Ehrlich et al. 1988; PM, pers. obs.). The cup-shaped nest was well concealed in dense, smooth brome grass 38 centimeters (cm) in height with heavy litter around and over it. Constructed of fine grasses and woven into several grass stems, the nest faced southwest with the rim at a 30 degree angle. The bottom of the nest was about 5 cm above the ground. The nest contained five eggs, which were off-white and distinctly wreathed with reddish-brown markings at the large end. Chip notes, a thin *tsip*, came repeatedly from the vegetation, but no bird was seen. The chip note was consistent with that given by Henslow's Sparrow and was different from that made by Grasshopper Sparrows. Henslow's had been singing in the field, but no Grasshopper Sparrow songs had been heard.

Two additional visits were made to the nest (by PM). On 9 July an adult sparrow flushed about 6 m from the nest. The four or five young had closed eyes, red gape, a yellow spot on the end of each tongue flange, light gray down, and feather bundles in tracts. A Henslow's sang once nearby, but was not seen. On 15 July an adult flushed 6 m from the nest when approached (by PM) and chipped three times. There were at least three young, which had their eyes open and were fully feathered except for the crown which still had some down. After a few minutes, the chipping sounds of a bird were heard repeatedly from nearby. After 10 minutes, an adult Henslow's appeared on a fallen milkweed plant with a green caterpillar in its bill. The bird was observed for 30 seconds before it disappeared into the vegetation. After leaving the nest site, the observer could still hear chipping coming from the area.

On each of the two later visits, the vegetation appeared more disturbed than previously, so that an opening was created which allowed a clear view of the nest and young. It is unclear whether this progressive opening was caused by nestling activity or the adults' feeding visits, but it presumably increased the risk from avian predation. The disturbance did not result from observer activity.

The Eldon Wildlife Area nest (Fig. 1) was found (by PM) in a field dominated by very clumpy orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), approximately 20 percent forbs (goldenrod and wild parsnip) with some bare ground between the clumps. A small sparrow flushed underfoot, then flew about 10 m before dropping to the vegetation without giving a distraction display. The cup-shaped nest was on the north side of an orchard grass clump adjacent to several goldenrod stems. Concealed under a canopy of live grass and litter, the nest was woven of fine grass, about 7 cm off the ground, and level. The four eggs were off-white, with reddish-brown spotting, and wreathed at the large end. After a few minutes, a nearby Henslow's began to sing loudly and was joined in singing by a second Henslow's. On a later visit, the nest could not be relocated.

DISCUSSION

The only bird with similar habits and appearance, nesting within this range, that could be confused with Henslow's Sparrow is the Grasshopper Sparrow. The nest of the latter is built in a slight depression, rim flush with ground level, and concealed by overhanging grass or forbs (Ehrlich et al. 1988); on the ground in a small clump

of grass surrounded by short cover (Skinner et al. 1984); under clumps of overhanging litter or grasses and domed (Wiens 1969); or under a layer of mown grass (PM, pers. obs.). Habitat preference is for vegetation that is low to moderate in height (Skinner et al. 1984, Wiens 1969) and little residual dead vegetation (Herkert 1994a). The Grasshoppers Sparrow's tendency to give a distraction display when it leaves the nest, and the different song and chip notes, also help to exclude this species.



Figure 1. Nest of Henslow's Sparrow at Eldon Wildlife Area, Davis County, 1996. The dominant vegetation around the nest is orchard grass. Photo by Peter Melde.

Other investigators have found the nests of Henslow's Sparrow to be deep or open cups placed in or near the base of clumps of grass (Wiens 1969), the bottom 5 cm to 7.6 cm (2-3 in.) off the ground, with dead grass forming an arched roof (Hyde 1939, Skinner et al. 1984). Habitat requirements are reported to be tall, dense vegetation (Herkert 1994b), tall, dense grass with scattered, tall forbs (Skinner et al. 1984), and residual dead vegetation (Herkert 1994a,b; Wiens 1969; Zimmerman 1988). Hyde (1939) found the majority bred in grassy meadows, usually bush-dotted, and dominated by hummocks of prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*). Others used shrub-sprinkled, grassy uplands.

Although the species was undoubtedly a native breeder, historical records of Henslow's Sparrow nests in Iowa are difficult to document and lack useful descriptions. Anderson (1907:317) listed a nest found in Grundy County and credited to Bingaman "one nest found and female shot in 1899". Lynds Jones (Davie 1900:372) described the habitat, nest, and eggs of the Henslow's in Iowa, which would have required actual observations. Bent (1968:788) cited nine Iowa records for "egg dates" from 18 May to 29 June, which also suggests nest observations. An

adult bird was seen with a green caterpillar in its bill on Kalsow Prairie before disappearing into the grass (Youngworth 1953), and adults were seen carrying food at Lake Sugema in 1994 (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1994). Without other recent records, the nests in Van Buren and Davis counties reestablish Henslow's Sparrow as a breeding resident in Iowa.

Several populations of the species were found in 1996 throughout the study area. On a landscape level, the occupied fields tended to be in areas of one to several sections dominated by pasture, uncut grass hay, and CRP fields. The fields of suitable habitat were 40 to 160 acres. Typical fields (Fig. 2) have smooth brome grass 45 cm to 85 cm (18 to 30 inches) in height, about 5% to 20% of the area in forbs, and dense, standing litter (the previous years' dead grass stems and leaves). The general impression of one of us (PM) was that in mid-June to late July the fields that supported Henslow's appeared half brown and half green.



Figure 2. Typical Henslow's Sparrow habitat at Lake Sugema area. Note the lack of trees and the openness of the area. Photo by Peter Melde.

Henslow's are more difficult to detect than most other grassland species, sometimes singing inconsistently and often from within the canopy. The presence of Grasshopper Sparrows and Sedge Wrens in the same field may indicate that an observer is in Henslow's habitat. We found the three species together frequently in our study fields. In Michigan, Hyde (1939) found the species most commonly associated with Henslow's Sparrow to be Sedge Wrens, a species that prefers tall, dense vegetation, and Savannah Sparrows, a species with habitat preferences similar to Grasshopper Sparrows. Walking slowly through the habitat may stimulate silent birds to sing (PM, pers. obs.). Hyde (1939) noted that singing seemed to be the species' response to disturbance near the nest. Zimmerman (1988) found the use of

taped playbacks effective for locating males. In our study fields, taped playbacks elicited a response from only one male (when his own song was played back), although it was an immediate and aggressive response. Fields that appear to be suitable habitat may require repeated visitation to locate uncooperative birds.

Simply protecting fields where Henslow's occur is not enough to maintain the population. Active grassland management is necessary to maintain suitable habitat for Henslow's and other grassland species (Herkert 1994a, Smith and Smith 1992). Without disturbance (i.e., management), upland grasslands will be invaded and eventually replaced by woody growth, excluding Henslow's from using the habitat. Currently, three management techniques are generally used to prevent woody invasion: Spring burning, mowing, and grazing (Herkert 1994a,b; Skinner et al. 1984; Smith and Smith 1992; Zimmerman 1988). On southwest Missouri prairies, unintensive haying (every 1-3 years) has been shown to maintain consistent Henslow's numbers (Swengel 1996) while achieving management goals. While these practices tend to reduce the amount of habitat available for Henslow's for one or two seasons, the habitat needs of other species (Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Horned Larks, Upland Sandpipers, etc.) are met during this time. By using a rotational system that incorporates any of the above practices, the grassland successional stage can be maintained and essential habitat provided for many grassland species (Herkert 1994a; Swengel 1996; Zimmerman 1988).

The discovery of breeding birds in the state is encouraging news for Henslow's Sparrow, but it is only a first step toward ensuring the species' continued presence in Iowa. It is still necessary to identify new populations, quantify their habitat needs, and explore ways of managing for this species and other grassland birds. By using science and education, we can improve the odds that Henslow's Sparrow will continue to breed in Iowa.

We thank James P. Sandrock for showing us the locations of birds in the Lake Sugema area and David J. Horn for comments on this paper.

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1922B North Center St. Rd., Marshalltown, IA 50158 (PBM) and Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Science Hall II, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011 (RRK).

MEET AN IOWA BIRDER: TOM KENT

CARL J. BENDORF

EARLY INTEREST IN BIRDS

Many birders have a vivid memory of the beginning of their fascination with birds but few have a permanent record of it like Tom Kent. In the summer of 1942, he rode the train to Colorado on a family vacation. Part of the trip was spent visiting A.M. Bailey, former Iowan and an old friend of Tom's father, Fred Kent. Bailey and Fred had taken an ornithology class together in Iowa City, and Bailey had become director of the Denver Museum of Natural History and a professional ornithologist. Bailey took the Kents up through the clouds to a sunny tundra on Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park. Another member of their party, R. J. Niedrach, caught a White-tailed Ptarmigan chick and the nearby hen bravely walked up to the group. As eight-year-old Tom was studying the docile birds, Bailey took several photos. One of these appeared in the July 1946 issue of National Geographic Society magazine and shows him, wearing the trademark blue cap of his youth, and the hen warily studying each other. This adventure began a life long study of birds for Tom Kent, and these White-tailed Ptarmigans later became the first species on his list of life birds.

In 1948, the Kent family started listing the bird species as soon as they left home on another trip to Colorado. In May 1949, Tom and his father attended their first I.O.U. meeting at McGregor, seeing one of the original nesting Peregrine Falcons along the Mississippi palisades. At the meeting, Al Berkowitz handed out some sample checklists with a weekly format. Beginning then, every Sunday night the Kents recorded the birds they had seen the previous week around eastern Iowa. After Tom started college five years later, Fred kept up the weekly checklists for two more decades. In 1974, they published *Birding in Eastern Iowa*, summarizing their weekly records for 25 years and illustrated with many of their photos. Fred, founder of the University of Iowa photo service, was a keen observer who contributed many articles and photos to *Iowa Bird Life*. Fred's enthusiasm for birds and zest for knowledge and keeping records were clearly passed along to his son (Fig. 1). Tom recalls with fondness how his father would take him out in the early days to see good birds, sometimes before dropping him off at school. In the later years before Fred's death at age 90, it was Tom who would pick up his father in the car and take him out to enjoy some special find.

In 1951, Tom was intrigued by Bob Vane's photos of a nesting Least Bittern at Swan Lake near Iowa City. That summer, 17-year-old Tom loaded his bulky photo equipment (Fig. 2) into a 1934 Dodge touring car for nearly 25 separate trips to the lake. Some photos required him to lie motionless in the bottom of a canoe for up to an hour gripping the shutter release while waiting for a bird to return to the nest. The resulting article was among the first of nearly 100 articles, notes, and reports he has contributed to *Iowa Bird Life* over the past 45 years.

Early the next spring, Tom was photographing a nesting Red-shouldered Hawk from a blind he built in Iowa City's City Park. A wandering mushroom hunter became suspicious of the strange activity and reported to the police that he had seen a hermit living in a tree. The officers interrupted Tom's vigil with their megaphones. After hearing his story, they called the Iowa City newspaper, which featured his photos a few days later. One of the Red-shouldered Hawk photos was later sold to a photo clearing house in New York City. For many years, the Red-shouldered Hawk

photo in the interpretative brochure at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida was actually one of these Iowa City birds.



Figure 1. Tom and Fred Kent on Iowa City Christmas Bird Count, 29 December 1954.

In 1953, Tom sold a few of his bird photos to Sawyer, Inc., makers of the well-known Viewmaster stereo slide series. This led to his being hired by Sawyer for the next three summers to take stereo photos in six upper Midwest states (some of us may have grown up learning about the sights of Nebraska from these pictures!). In addition to helping pay his way through medical school, he recalls splurging one night during his travels for a \$5 motel room "with carpeting".

A "SECOND" BIRDING CAREER

The rigors of college, a new career in medicine, and young children put Tom's active birding on hold (except for Christmas counts and a big week in May each year) until 1973. That year, he found himself with an extra day after a March medical meeting in Texas where a side trip to Galveston Island rekindled his interest. Soon he was adding a few days whenever possible to professional meetings across the country. In 1976, Mike Newlon, Nick Halmi and Tom Shires asked him to join them on a big day in eastern Iowa. Soon, he was out birding at every opportunity including trips to all corners of the state.

In 1979, Tom co-authored an article with Halmi and Shires in *Iowa Bird Life* conjecturing on the number of species that could be found in Iowa in one year. He then set out to test the limits by finding 239 species that year, followed by 276 in 1981. It's been a hallmark of his influence as an Iowa birder that Tom has shared so many of his discoveries with others through his carefully researched and concise articles in *Iowa Bird Life*. For example, the 1979 article above was followed in 1980 by an in-depth analysis of the species found and missed by the three birders that year

and the specific strategies used. This article still serves as a model for the other Iowa birders who have been inspired to later surpass these totals.

Looking for a different way to study the distribution of birds in Iowa, Tom decided in 1990 to concentrate on birding in Johnson County. During this year he drove every inch of the county's roads in finding 255 species, a remarkable total for a single county. During peak migration, he sometimes visited the better spots three different times a day and he did a big day in each of 12 months. Tom later wrote an article for *Iowa Bird Life* about his quest which was reprinted in *The Loon*, the journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union whose editor lauded it as a model of clarity and method.



Figure 2. Tom Kent with stereo camera and flash at American Goldfinch nest, Iowa City, 16 September 1949.

In 1992, Tom again concentrated on an annual state list and was among the first to reach 300. This was followed by a Herculean effort in 1995 when he drove 40,000 miles in finding 315 species; during May he went birding on all days but one and averaged 9 hours a day in the field.

It's fitting for someone whose start as a birder is documented in a published photo that Tom still never goes out birding without a camera in the trunk of his car. While the car is a newer model and the camera just a bit easier to carry, the skills and patience he first learned in high school are still evident. A number of Iowa accidentals over the last two decades have been documented by Tom's photos and many been published in *Iowa Bird Life* or *American Birds*. One of the pleasures of some of the out-of-state expeditions I've had with Tom has been the chance to re-live our adventures with a well organized and carefully labeled tray of slides viewed over dinner with our spouses.

Besides birding in Iowa, Tom has birded extensively in all corners of North America including three trips to Attu Island, Alaska. His birding companions on these longer trips have often included Bob Cecil, Jim Fuller, Francis Moore, Ross Silcock, Tom Staudt, Dick Tetrault, and Russ Widner. All of them have enjoyed the benefits of his extensive pre-trip research, insights on where and when to find our target species and his dogged persistence in searching. There have been times when the rest of us were ready to give up and Tom's encouragement kept us going. I will never forget the image of him pedaling a bicycle steadily along the rocky trails of Attu Island, head down against a driving rain, all for better look at an Asian species he'd probably already seen.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE I.O.U.

Before leaving Iowa in 1979, Nick Halmi, then editor of the field reports for *Iowa Bird Life*, recruited Tom take his place. Over the next few years, he changed the format to make data more readable and began to promote consistency in reporting. Tom has since authored and co-authored more than 30 seasonal reports and continues to write the spring and fall reports, sometimes with the assistance of Jim Fuller or the author. His knowledge of the range of occurrence for even the most common species is impressive and comes from hours of study and research. The quantity and quality of reports submitted has been enhanced by his attention to dates, details, and documentation.

In addition to assuming responsibility for the field reports, Tom replaced Halmi on the I.O.U. Checklist Committee. In 1980, he recommended that this group be transformed into the I.O.U. Records Committee and has served as its secretary from 1980 to 1989 and from 1991 to the present. His basement shelves are filled with carefully organized records of every written documentation and photo ever submitted to the committee. Besides dealing with current records, he has painstakingly researched every accidental Iowa species prior to 1980 and presented the available evidence to the committee for evaluation. During the time I served on the Records Committee, we always looked to Tom for his probing questions and careful leadership.

Also in 1979, during a foray in southeastern Iowa, Tom was asked by its organizer, Dean Roosa, if he might be interested in working on a book about Iowa birds. Typically, he became absorbed in researching historical data and vagrancy records and, in 1984, *Iowa Birds* was published with Tom as one of five co-authors. Just as the earlier improvements in the field reports seemed to lead to even more reports being submitted, this comprehensive book prompted a new flood of information.

One of Tom's most significant contributions to the I.O.U. was his service as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* for four volumes from 1986 through 1989. Building on his experience with *Iowa Birds*, he used his personal computer to edit and lay out the

journal to be transferred directly to the printer. Tom placed an emphasis on encouraging more notes about unusual sightings and introduced other new features, many of which have continue today under Jim Dinsmore's editorship. Tom also served on the committee to revise the I.O.U. constitution in 1984 and the Library/Historical Committee from 1986 to the present.



Figure 3. Tom Kent, November 1996.

When Tom is not out birding, he can usually be found in his basement home office which is lined with books, boxes of labeled photos and slides, and the clutter of articles and reports in progress. For the past four years, the centerpiece of this organized chaos has been the crafting of a new book on Iowa's birds, co-authored with Jim Dinsmore. The new volume will summarize the now-completed Records Committee review of all historical records of accidentals as well as summaries of the rising tide of data about early and late dates and distribution trends of all of Iowa's bird species.

Now that he has completed work on the new book, Tom is looking forward to getting back out in the field whenever he is not enjoying his second passion--competitive bridge. I'm sure his pace won't slow down even after he eventually finds his two nemesis species in Iowa, Black-billed Magpie and Ferruginous Hawk.

My first birding experience with Tom was during the 1978 Iowa City Christmas Count. It was very cold that day, and the car windows were thoroughly frosted. Somehow, I managed to notice some odd birds in the middle of a corn field. Tom had barely slowed the car when we identified the birds as Gray Partridge, a species new to the count and also new to Tom's state list. Since that day, he has helped me find many new birds. His willingness to share knowledge and experience combined with a perpetual interest in identification problems has made him an inspirational teacher and friend. The rest of us can marvel at the lifetime of contributions Tom has made to the I.O.U. and to our understanding of Iowa's birds.

PERSONAL

Thomas H. Kent was born 17 August 1934 in Iowa City to Frederick W. and Clara R. Kent. He and his wife, Ann, married in 1957 and have three children, Bill, Judy, and Sally. Tom earned a B.S. 1956 in General Science and his medical degree in 1959 from the University of Iowa. After an internship in Indianapolis and residency at the University of Iowa, he did two years of research in gastrointestinal disease at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

Tom joined the faculty of the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1966. In addition to continuing research in gastrointestinal pathology, he was responsible for directing the department's teaching programs. In 1970, he was a founder of the Group for Research in Pathology Education which grew into a national organization of which he served as director for 18 years. Tom co-authored two textbooks, *Program Text in General Pathology* and *Introduction to Disease*. In 1990, he received the national Distinguished Teaching Award in Basic Science from the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society for medicine followed by the Distinguished Service Award from the Pathology Chairman's Group in 1991. He retired as professor in the Department of Pathology in 1995.

113 Post Road, Iowa City, IA 52245

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The lead article of this short, 16-page issue, is a report by Emerson Stoner on his experiences with owls in the Greenwood Park area of Des Moines. Most interesting is a photograph of his home in the old Greenwood Park Station next to the former Ingersoll Amusement Park. Much of the issue consists of short notes on bird observations. The most significant of these is the report of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Wright County, the first accepted report of this species in Iowa. In recent years, this species has been seen almost yearly and has nested at least once. The issue includes the membership list for the I.O.U. The total membership then was 289, about half of the current total. This total may seem low, but birding was not nearly as popular an activity then as it is now. ed.

FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1996

JAMES J. DINSMORE

WEATHER

The best word to describe the summer was cool. Temperatures were somewhat below normal in June and several degrees below normal in July. As has been the pattern in the 1990s, temperatures did not exceed 100 anytime during the period and there were few days when it reached the 90s. Although precipitation was about normal for both months, there were several severe storms. In mid June, heavy rains in central Iowa sent several rivers out of their banks and caused locally severe flooding. In mid July, a similar storm, this time centered in west-central Iowa, produced in excess of 10 inches in some areas and again caused severe flooding. This storm had devastating effects on nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns near Sioux City.



HABITAT CONDITIONS

The generally cool weather seemed to lead to reduced insect populations, and some observers suggested that some species were having trouble finding food for their young. The flooding presumably was hard on ground nesting birds such as Gray Partridge and pheasants. At the governmental level, there was great relief by many conservationists when a long battle over the future of the Conservation Reserve Program was finally settled with the program being renewed, albeit in somewhat reduced form. That euphoria was quickly subdued when President Clinton authorized emergency haying and grazing on all CRP lands. It is not clear how much of Iowa's 2.2 million acres of CRP will be lost at the end of the normal 10-year contracts or will be grazed or cut for hay under the emergency rules. However, those lands have provided some great grassland habitat for a number of Iowa's birds in the past decade.

UNUSUAL BIRDS

Among rarities, the best finds were both in northwestern Iowa, a Lazuli Bunting found in early June and a Black-headed Gull that showed up near where several were seen in 1994, raising the possibility that one of those birds returned. Close behind for best finds were the Red-necked Grebe and Mississippi Kites at two sites. Other good finds were two reports of White-faced Ibis, a King Rail, and a White-crowned Sparrow. Easily the most bizarre event was the unprecedented invasion of Red Crossbills in July.

Among nesting species, 1996 was a mixed bag with a number of disappointments. There were no reports of nesting Barn Owls after a banner year in 1995 and what started out as a promising nesting year for Piping Plovers and Least Terns at Port Neal was largely a failure due to heavy rains. Gray Partridge numbers continued at a low level. Also, there were no reports of nesting by marsh species such as Black Tern, Forster's Tern, and Black-crowned Night-Heron although that may have been

due to lack of coverage. There were no reports of Bewick's Wren, and Carolina Wren numbers seemed depressed although a nest of the latter was found.

Not all was negative. Easily the best news was the discovery of Henslow's Sparrows in three southeastern Iowa counties and a new colony in Linn County. Bald Eagle nest numbers were up, and they appeared to be having good nesting success. Sandhill Cranes nested at two sites including one new one. Ring-billed Gulls nested in the Great Lakes region for a third year, and Great-tailed Grackles continued to colonize new areas. A pair of Brown Creepers appeared to be nesting in northwestern Iowa, a major expansion of its range. The Peregrine Falcon restoration program added two new release sites, and Trumpeter Swans had their first successful nests.

With the cold, late spring, it was not surprising that a number of migrants lingered into early June. Included among these were at least three species of flycatchers, one thrush, one vireo, seven warblers, and two sparrows. However, there was no evidence of an early southbound passerine migration in late July.

SPECIES DATA

(* = documented; [] = record date)

Common Loon: All: 1 at Lost Island L. in Clay Co. on 5 Jun (ETh), 1 in basic plumage at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 8 Jun (PJW), 2 in basic plumage on Spirit L. on 15 Jun, 15, 16, 27 Jul (LAS, ETh, NBe), 2 at Pleasant Creek Rec. A. in Linn Co. (1 in alternate plumage) through 22 Jul (DLD, DHo), 1 in basic plumage at Paullina in O'Brien Co. on 26-28 Jun (DK), and 1 in basic plumage at Little Wall L. on 25 Jul (PHA, RIA). This is far more than are usually found in summer.

Pied-billed Grebe: Nesting was noted in Boone and Dickinson counties.

Red-necked Grebe: One in basic plumage at Anderson L. on 4 Jul (HZ-details, *MPr) was the first summer report since 1994.

Eared Grebe: One at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Jun (MCK) was the only report.

Western Grebe: Three at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 8 Jun (LAS) and 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 12 Jun (MCK) were in the Great Lakes region where this species is often found while 1 at George Wyth S.P. in Black Hawk Co. on 7 Jun (JLF) was east of its usual range.

American White Pelican: As is typical, several groups were found in NW Iowa; the largest was 260-300 that summered in the Ruthven area (LAS). Elsewhere small groups were found in Marion, Polk, Woodbury, and Wright counties while 100 were at Waubonsie W.A. in Fremont Co. on 7 Jul (BKP, LJP) and 110-125 were at Coralville Res. in July (JLF, THK).

Double-crested Cormorant: From 1 to 22 were found in Dickinson, Fremont, Kossuth, Lucas, and Story counties. The 35 at Coralville Res. on 10 Jul included 4 birds that appeared to be on active nests (THK).

American Bittern: One at Errington M. on 5 Jun (BSc) and another at Harrier M. in early June (RMu) were the only reports.

Least Bittern: Singles were reported in Clay, Harrison, Louisa, Palo Alto, and Sac counties. The hot spot for this species was Polk County where 3 were at Errington M. on 8 Jun (BE) and a nest was found at Camp Dodge on 18 Jun (BSc).

Great Blue Heron: Active colonies were noted at Hottes L. (13 nests, LAS), northern Winneshiek Co. (2 colonies, one with 30 nests, DeC), and in NE Dallas Co. (30 nests, BE). The colony below Saylorville Dam was abandoned after several years of decline (BE). Large postbreeding concentrations included 75 in NE Warren Co. on 14 Jul (JSi) and 103 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).

Great Egret: Besides a few isolated individuals, high counts were 24 at Green Island W.A. on 10 Jun (JLF) and at the Waubonsie W.A. where 18 were found on 23 Jun, 80 on 3 Jul, and 86 on 22 Jul (BKP, LJP).

Snowy Egret: I received a late report of 1 near Diamond L. in Dickinson Co. on 2 May (Pete Melde fide JJD).

Little Blue Heron: All the reports were from Fremont Co.: 1 imm near Percival on 27 Jun (MPr, BPr), 2 ad. at Waubonsie W.A. on 3 Jul (BKP, LJP), 1 imm at Riverton A. on 7 Jul (BKP, LJP), and 6 ad. and an imm at Waubonsie W.A. on 22 Jul (BKP, LJP).

Cattle Egret: There were 10 reports of from 1 to 10 birds in Boone, Clay, Fremont, Hamilton, Linn, Polk, and Story counties. Larger groups were all in SW Iowa: 25 near Forney L. in Fremont Co. on

- 15 Jun (BKP, LJP), 30 n of Council Bluffs on 20 Jun (JJD), and 15-20 near Nebraska City in Fremont Co. on 27 Jun (MPr).
- Green Heron:** From 1 to 4 were found in Appanoose, Buena Vista, Shelby, Story, and Winneshiek counties. This species is found statewide but there is little information on nesting.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Two at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 8 Jun (PJW) was the only report.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Two adults along the North R. in Warren Co. on 4 Jul (JSi) and an ad and imm along the Middle R. in Warren Co. on 7, 14 Jul (JSi) were the only reports.
- White-faced Ibis:** Two at DU Marsh in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (*LAS) and 12 at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (*MPr) are the first summer reports since 1992.
- Trumpeter Swan:** Five young hatched at a nest w. of Ames in Boone Co. in early July; 4 were still there on 11 Jul (JJD).
- Mute Swan:** One was at Liscomb in Hardin Co. on 25 Jul (MPr, BPr, details).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** One on the Big Sioux R. in Sioux Co. on 1 Jul (Marty Eby fide Stephen Dinsmore) and 1 at Dugout Creek W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 20 Jul (LAS) were the only reports.
- Snow Goose:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Boone, Clay, Fremont, Kossuth, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Polk, Sac, Sioux, Story, and Woodbury counties, and 8 were at the Waubonsie W.A. in Fremont Co. on 15 Jun (BKP, LJP). This is more reports than in most summers.
- Green-winged Teal:** From 1 to 4 were reported in Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Palo Alto counties, all in the Great Lakes region.
- Northern Pintail:** One or 2 were reported in early June in Clay, Emmet, and Sac counties, and a brood was at Twelve Mile L. in Emmet Co. in late July (Steve Cordt fide JJD).
- Blue-winged Teal:** Outside of its usual northern Iowa range, several summered at Harrier and Errington marshes and 2 were at Rathbun Res. on 15 Jun (TNJ).
- Northern Shoveler:** The only broods reported were 1 each at Christopherson Sl. in Emmet Co. and at DU Marsh in Clay Co. (Steve Cordt fide JJD). From 1 to 3 were seen in Boone, Clay, Kossuth, and Palo Alto counties in early June.
- Gadwall:** From 1 to 3 were seen in Appanoose, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Sac counties in early and mid June.
- American Wigeon:** All: A pair at Hendrickson M. in Jun (D. VanWaus fide HZ), a male at Kettleton W.P.A. on 15 Jun (LAS), a pair at Meinking M. in Dickinson Co. on 15 Jun (JJD), and 1 at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. until 20 Jul (PE).
- Canvasback:** A brood at Union Slough N.W.R. in late July (Steve Cordt fide JJD) and a male at Dan Green Sl. in Clay Co. on 8 Jun (LAS) were the only reports.
- Redhead:** Besides the 1 or 2 found in Clay, Dickinson, and Kossuth counties, 19 were at the Ingham-High A. in Emmet Co. on 9 Jun (PJW).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Single males were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK), DU Marsh in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS), Grover's L. on 16 Jun (NBe), and all summer at Big Creek L. (BE).
- Lesser Scaup:** From 1 to 3 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Clay, Hamilton, Johnson, Kossuth, and Linn counties; several of these appeared to be nonbreeding summer birds.
- Hooded Merganser:** Besides broods at Big Sand Mound Pre. on 2 Jun (PCP) and Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Jun (JJD), from 1 to 3 were found in Boone, Dickinson, O'Brien, and Winneshiek counties. Some of the latter birds appeared to be wanderers.
- Common Merganser:** One on Spirit L. on 4 Jun (ETH) was the only report.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** A female at Rock Creek S.P. in Jasper Co. on 6 Jun (MPr) was the only report.
- Ruddy Duck:** One or two were found in Boone, Clinton, Johnson, and Woodbury counties. The 8 (5 males, 3 females) seen at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun dwindled to 3 males on 3 Jul (MCK).
- Turkey Vulture:** A nest with 2 young was found at Mines of Spain Rec. A. in Dubuque Co. in early July (W. Buchholz fide DHo). The 12-16 that summered at the Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. (DK) is suggestive of increasing numbers in NW Iowa.
- Osprey:** All: Up to 2 at Broken Kettle A. in Plymouth Co. in early Jun (RRe), 1 at West Okoboji on 4 Jun (NBe), 1 at L. Ahquabi on 12 Jun (JSi), and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 28 Jul (ABr).
- Mississippi Kite:** One were seen at the Windsor Heights site where they nested last year on 29 Jun, 12, 14 Jul (*PHA, RIA, PJW) but no nesting activity was noted. Nearby in Des Moines, 1 or 2 birds were seen flying overhead on numerous dates from 2 Jun to 28 Jul (PJW); as was true last year, it is not clear whether these are birds from Windsor Heights or from another site. Finally, 1 was seen and photographed at Ledges S.P. on 25 Jul (*PHA, RIA).
- Bald Eagle:** About 48 nests in 18 counties were active this year, up somewhat from a revised total of 43 for 1995 (BEh). An adult at Spirit L. on 6 Jul (ETH) and an imm along the Des Moines R. in Warren Co. on 14 Jul (JSi) were away from known nests.

- Northern Harrier:** One near Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 8 Jun (PJW) may have been nesting nearby. Four other reports of singles, all in July, from Davis, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Plymouth counties, are harder to categorize.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Singles were reported in Allamakee, Appanoose, Clayton (2 sites), Decatur, Dubuque, Wayne, and Winneshiek (2 sites) counties where this species is expected. Singles at Hidden Bridge A. in Lyon Co. on 29 Jun (LAS) and at 2 sites in O'Brien Co. in July (DK) were out of its usual Iowa range. The only report of nesting was an active nest near Garnaville in Clayton Co. on 6 Jun (LH).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** One at Yellow River F. on 25 Jun (MPR, BPR) was the only report.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Singles were noted in Allamakee (2 sites), Boone, Kossuth, Lucas, Polk (2 sites), Van Buren, and Woodbury counties but no indication of nesting was noted.
- Swainson's Hawk:** One was seen at the long-occupied nest site near Allendorf in Osceola Co. (MPR, DK).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Pairs at Des Moines and Cedar Rapids produced 2 and 3 young, respectively. In addition, young birds were released at new sites in Iowa City and Mason City. In late July, a wild adult appeared at the Iowa City site and killed 1 of the young; the other 2 were moved to the Mason City site.
- Gray Partridge:** One or 2 were reported in Clay, Emmet, Hancock, Linn (brood, DLD), and Story counties, an indication of the depressed numbers of this species. Two at Moravia in Appanoose Co. on 15 Jun (TNJ) are at the southern edge of its Iowa range. The cold, wet spring and early summer probably didn't help its nesting this summer.
- Northern Bobwhite:** Cummins considered its numbers down in south-central Iowa, not unexpected after this past winter but Van Dyk considered populations up in western Sioux Co. after several low years.
- King Rail:** One seen and heard at Errington M. on 12 Jun (BE) was the only report.
- Virginia Rail:** One at Errington M. on 5 Jun (BSc) and another at Voas A. in Dallas Co. throughout June (BSc) were the only reports.
- Sora:** One at Errington M. on 12 Jun (BE) is one of the few recent summer records in Polk Co.
- Common Moorhen:** Besides 2-4 at Green Island W.A. and Goose L. in Clinton Co. in June (JLF, MPR), both usual sites, 1 was at Jemmerson Sl. on 30 Jun, 1 Jul (PHA, RIA, ETH) and a brood was at Blue L. in Monona Co. on 14 Jul (PE).
- American Coot:** One at the Mid-America Power ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 15 Jun, 7 Jul (BKP, LJP), a cripple at Errington M. on 8 Jun (BE), and 2 at Rathbun Res. on 2 Jun (TNJ) were out of its usual summer haunts.
- Sandhill Crane:** Nesting was reported at two sites; Big M. in Butler Co. where 2 eggs hatched and at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. where two pairs nested, one with 2 young and the other with 1 (Art Roseland fide PSc). The Big M. nest was the first there in modern times. The only other reports were flyovers: 2 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK) and 1 at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 23 Jun (LAS).
- Semipalmated Plover:** Last: 3 at Grovers L. on 15 Jun (LAS). First: 1 s. of Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. on 14 Jul (ETH). Most: 10 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).
- Piping Plover:** The most at the Mid-America Power ponds was 4 on 12, 13 Jun (JJD) but there were no reports of nesting. At the ponds at Port Neal in Woodbury Co., the maximum counts were 13 adults on 7 Jul and 13 young on 29 Jun but most of the young died in a 10" rain. Four fledged young were seen on 27 Jul (BFH). The only other report was 1 at Rathbun Res. on 8 Jul (TNJ).
- Killdeer:** 196 were counted on a small pond at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).
- American Avocet:** One at the Mid-America Power ponds on 8 Jul (BKP, LJP) was the first, and 18 at Rathbun Res. on 19 Jul (ABr) was the most.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** First: 1 at Coralville Res. on 10 Jul (THK).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last: 2 at Harrier M. on 8 Jun (JJD). First: 3 at Jemmerson Sl. on 26 Jun (JLF) and 7 along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 2 Jul (LAS). Most: 52 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 1 at Coralville Res. on 3 Jul (JLF). Most: 10 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 Jul (MCK).
- Willet:** All: 1 at Dan Green Sl. on 5 Jun (ETH)[record latest], 3 at the Mid-America Power ponds on 22 Jun (BKP, LJP)[ties record earliest], and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 14 Jul (TNJ).
- Spotted Sandpiper:** An adult with downy young was seen at Port Neal on 18 Jul (BFH).
- Upland Sandpiper:** From 1 to 8 were reported in Appanoose, Boone, Cherokee, Clay, Dallas, Fremont, Humboldt, Kossuth, O'Brien, and Story (brood, HZ) counties, somewhat fewer than most summers.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Two at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK) and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 20 Jul (RLC, TNJ)[record earliest] were all the reports.

Sanderling: All: 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK) and 6 at Rathbun Res. on 16 Jul [third earliest] and 16 there on 20 Jul (TNJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 30 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Jun (MCK). First: 5 at Port Neal on 29 Jun (BFH). Most: 36 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 Jul (MCK).

Least Sandpiper: First: 2 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 5 at Colo Ponds (HZ) on 3 Jul. Most: 60 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 10 Jul (MCK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last: 8 at Dan Green Sl (LAS) and 2 in SW Palo Alto Co. (PJW) on 8 Jun. Most: 80 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Jun (MCK).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 2 at Port Neal on 27 Jul (BFH) and 6 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 3 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 10 Jul (MCK). Most: 110 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Jul (MCK).

Dunlin: Two at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Jun (MCK) was the only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 4 at Riverton A. on 7 Jul (BKP, LJP). Most: 10 near Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. on 13 Jul (ETH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 2 at Jemmeson Sl. on 7 Jul (LAS, details). There were five other reports of from 2 to 7 individuals from 10 to 21 Jul, more than most summers.

American Woodcock: All: 1 at Broken Kettle A., Plymouth Co. in early June (RRe) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Jul (BE).

Wilson's Phalarope: A nest found at Harrier M. in late May was unsuccessful. A female about 100 yards from that nest on 19 Jun acted as if she was at another nest but none was found (JJD). The only migrant reported was 1 near Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. on 25 Jul (PHA, RIA).

Franklin's Gull: From 1 to 4 were seen in Appanoose, Dickinson, Emmet, and Fremont counties, and 200 were near Jemmeson Sl. on 23 Jun (LAS). One in alternate plumage at Coralville Res. on 20 Jul was a local first (THK).

Black-headed Gull: For the second time in 3 years, this species was found in summer. One in alternate plumage was found near Jemmeson Sl. on 23 Jun and seen through 20 Jul (*LAS, *JLF, *MPr, ETH). This is only a few miles from where a recently fledged young bird was found in 1994.

Ring-billed Gull: The colony at Meinking M. was active again with 150-200 adults present on 15 Jun. It appeared that at least 20 and probably many more nests were active (JJD). On 10 Jul, a flying juvenile accompanied by an adult were seen at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); perhaps they came from the Meinking colony. Otherwise, the usual 1 to 20 were seen scattered across the state.

Herring Gull: Two were at Rathbun Res. on 14, 20 Jul (RLC, TNJ).

Caspian Tern: From 1 to 4 were seen in Appanoose, Cass, Dickinson, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties.

Common Tern: All: 1 at Jemmeson Sl. on 23 Jun (LAS) and 1 at Spencer on 6 Jul (LAS).

Forster's Tern: From 1 to 5 were reported in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Fremont, Kossuth, and Winneshiek counties. No one mentioned nesting.

Least Tern: The most at the Mid-America Power ponds was 8 on 12, 13 Jun (JJD) but there were no reports of nesting. At Port Neal, 7 nests and 13 adults were present on 7 Jul, but all the nests were lost in a 10" rain (BFH).

Black Tern: It was a confusing picture for this species as its migration seemed late this year. The 100 at Rathbun Res. on 2 Jun (TNJ), 11 at Harrier M. on 4 Jun (JJD), 14 at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (DeC), and 26 at Tomahawk M. on 8 Jun (PE) were all probably migrants while 5 at Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Jun were one-year-old birds (BKP, LJP) and likely non breeders. No one mentioned nesting but several at Grovers L. on 15 Jun (JJD) may have nested there. Southbound migrants included 1 at Colo Ponds on 3 Jul (HZ) and 19 at Riverton A. on 7 Jul (BKP, LJP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: From 1 to 3 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Delaware, Fayette, Jackson, Jasper, Kossuth, Linn, and Winneshiek counties. Several commented on its apparent scarcity.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: From 1 to 6 were found in Allamakee, Cass, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Fremont, Hardin, Kossuth, Linn, Marion, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties.

Barn Owl: After a tremendous nesting year last year (a total of 10 nests, revised from IBL 65:99), there were no reports of Barn Owls this summer. Did the severe winter harm this species? A late report of 1 found dead in Mahaska Co. on 7 Jan (BEh) is suggestive of that conclusion.

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 2 were near Waubonsie S.P. on 27 Jun (MPr, BPr).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One or 2 were found in Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Fremont (nest, MPr), Hardin, Jackson, Polk, and Winneshiek counties. A nest was found in Yellow River F. on 22 May (AC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: In its usual NE Iowa range, active nests were found near Lansing and New Albin in Allamakee Co. (WN) and 2 fledged young were at Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek Co. in

- late June (L. Reis fide DeC). Elsewhere, 1 was near E. Okoboji on 10 Jun (ETh) and a male was at Hidden Bridge A. in Lyon Co. on 29 Jun.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** One or 2 were found in Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Johnson, Jones, and Lucas counties, all within its usual Iowa range.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** All: 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK), 1 at Mossy Glen S. Pre. in Clayton Co. on 6 Jun (AC), 3 at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 7 Jun (ETh), and 1 at Mines of Spain Rec. A. in Dubuque Co. on 10 Jun (MPR, details).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** All: Singles in Ames on 2 Jun (PM), and A.A. Call S.P. on 5, 6, 16 Jun (MCK, details)[record latest] were late.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** From 1 to 11 were reported in Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Kossuth, Polk, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties. A nest was found near Decorah on 29 Jul (WN, DF).
- Alder Flycatcher:** One at A.A. Call S.P. on 6, 7 Jun (MCK), 1 near Volga in Clayton Co. on 6 Jun (WN), 1 near Garnaville in Clayton Co. on 6 Jun (LH), and 2 at Canoe Creek W.A. in Winneshiek Co. on 13 Jun (WF) were about typical for late migrants in this cool spring. However, 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 Jul (RLC, heard repeatedly) is hard to figure.
- Willow Flycatcher:** From 1 to 9 were found in Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Johnson, Palo Alto, Polk, Sac, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties.
- Least Flycatcher:** From 1 to 3 found from 1 to 12 Jun in Kossuth, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties were probably late migrants. Singles at Green Island W.A. in Jackson Co. on 19 Jun (JLF), Yellow River F. on 25 Jun (MPR, BPr), near Highlandville in Winneshiek Co. on 4 Jul (DeC), and near Colesburg in Clayton Co. on 10 Jul (WN) were more likely nesting.
- Western Kingbird:** Most of the reports were from western Iowa (O'Brien, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties) plus a nest in Fremont Co. (MPR). The only other report was a nest at the state capitol in Des Moines (PHA, RIA, photo).
- Purple Martin:** Van Dyk thought the cold weather may have made it difficult for adults to find food for young early in the summer.
- Bank Swallow:** On 30 Jun the Padelfords found a large snake (Bull?) in a nest burrow in a colony in Mills Co. The only report of post-breeding concentrations was 1,000 at Port Neal on 27 Jul (BFH).
- Cliff Swallow:** Engbreetsen noted that the colony on the highway 17 bridge on the north end of Saylville Res. had about 1,000 nests, down from last year.
- Brown Creeper:** From 1 to 4 were reported from its usual range along the Mississippi R. in Des Moines, Dubuque, and Jackson counties. Away from there, 2 adults singing and courting along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 5 Jun (LAS) suggested nesting there as well.
- Carolina Wren:** Besides singles at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC) and near Waubonsie S.P. (BKP, LJP), the only other report was a nest that fledged 4 young at Starr's Cave near Burlington in early June, one of the few nest reports for Iowa (Sharon Kaufman fide JJD). Engbreetsen noted he had seen none since the severe blizzards this past winter. This species is notorious for its high mortality under such conditions.
- Winter Wren:** One at Mossy Glen S. Pre. on 20 Jun (LH) and 1 at White Pine Hollow in Dubuque Co. on 24 Jun (AC) were the only reports.
- Sedge Wren:** A young bird was seen leaving a nest at the L. Sugema A. in Keosauqua Co. on 24 Jun (PMe), one of the few nests seen in recent years. I received reports of from 1 to many from 20 counties in all but southwestern Iowa.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A pair at a nest at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 9 Jun (LAS) and birds that summered at A.A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. (MCK) were at the edge of this species' usual range.
- Veery:** From 1 to 5 were found in Boone, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Hancock, Hardin, Jones, Lee, Lucas, and Polk counties. This spans about the eastern half of Iowa.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Singles at A.A. Call S.P. on 1 Jun (MCK) and Kettleson Hogsback A. on 2 Jun (ETh) were late but not unexpected this year.
- Wood Thrush:** From 1 to 4 were found in Allamakee, Clay, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Fremont, Hancock, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Mills, Polk, Pottawattamie, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties. The most reported was 13 males singing at Mines of Spain Rec. A. in Dubuque Co. on 6 Jul (PE). The only indications of nesting were a nest at Mines of Spain on 6 Jul (PE) and an adult feeding a young cowbird at Amana Woods in Iowa Co. on 7 Jul (DLD).
- Northern Mockingbird:** All: 1 at Big Sand Mound Pre. in Louisa Co. on 2 Jun (PCP).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** From 1 to 5 were found in Linn, Plymouth (brood, BFH), Polk, Pottawattamie, Story, Wayne, and Woodbury counties, fewer than most years.
- White-eyed Vireo:** One at Wapsipinicon S.P. in Jones Co. on 11 Jun (MPR) was the only report.
- Bell's Vireo:** From 1 to 3 were reported in Appanoose, Fremont, Johnson, Linn, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Van Buren counties.

- Yellow-throated Vireo:** From 1 to a few were present in Allamakee, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Clay, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fremont, Hancock, Hardin, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Lucas, Marion, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, Webster, Winneshiek counties.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** Late migrants were reported on at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 1 Jun (ETH) and A. A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 1 Jun (MCK)[2nd latest].
- Blue-winged Warbler:** From 1 to 4 were reported in its usual range in Allamakee, Boone, Clayton, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties. One along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 1 Jun (LAS) was out of its usual range. At Stephens F. in Lucas Co., 8 males were found; also a female was seen feeding 3 young cowbirds (ABr).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Late migrants included 2 at A. A. Call S.P. on 1 Jun (MCK), 3 in Algona on 3, 4 Jun and 1 still there on 5 Jun (MCK), and 1 at Brown's Woods in Polk Co. on 9 Jun (BE).
- Nashville Warbler:** All: 3 in Algona on 3, 4 Jun and 1 there on 5 Jun (MCK)[ties record latest] and 1 in Des Moines on 3 Jun (BE)[3rd latest].
- Northern Parula:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Delaware, Dubuque, Fremont, Johnson, Lee, and Van Buren counties. One on 13 Jul at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS) was on the edge of its range.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** During an intensive study of woodland birds, it was found on 9 sites including Fish Farm Mounds S. Pre. in Allamakee Co., Bloody Run W.A. and near Volga in Clayton Co., near Elgin in Fayette Co., and near Decorah in Winneshiek county (WN), the most reports of any recent summer.
- Magnolia Warbler:** One at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 2 Jun (PE) was the only report.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** A male at A. A. Call S.P. on 1 Jun (MCK), 1 at Ram Hollow W.A. in Delaware Co. on 14 Jun (WN), and 1 at Fish Farm Mounds W.A. in Allamakee Co. on 19 Jun (PG) are the latest in a recent pattern of June reports.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** A male at A. A. Call S.P. on 1 Jun (MCK), 1 at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 6 Jun (ETH)[3rd latest], and a male at Wapsipinicon S.P. in Jones Co. on 11 Jun (MPr, details)[record latest] were late but probably not unexpected this year.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** All: Singles in Johnson, Polk, and Van Buren counties.
- Prairie Warbler:** Two males were singing on 1 Jun at the same Macbride S.P. site where this species nested last year (CE).
- Cerulean Warbler:** From 1 to 3 were found Allamakee, Appanoose, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Hardin, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.
- American Redstart:** A male and 2 young were at L. Macbride S.P. on 4 Jul (CE).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Most reports were from its usual haunts along the Mississippi or Des Moines rivers (Allamakee, Des Moines, Jackson, Polk counties). One on 7 Jun at the Kettleson Hogsback A. in Dickinson Co. (ETH) and 2 males along the Des Moines R. in Algona on 9 Jun (MCK) suggest a small population in northwestern Iowa.
- Worm-eating Warbler:** One at Fish Farm Mounds W.A. in Allamakee Co. on 3, 4, 30 Jun (WN, AC) was the only report.
- Ovenbird:** I received two reports of nesting: a nest near Dorchester in Allamakee Co. on 29 May (WN) and a nest with 5 eggs in June at Ram Hollow W. A. in Delaware Co. (WN).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** From 1 to 6 were reported in Boone, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Lee, Van Buren, and Woodbury counties.
- Kentucky Warbler:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Allamakee, Appanoose, Clayton, Fremont, Jones, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties.
- Connecticut Warbler:** One at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 2 Jun (ETH) and 1 on 3 Jun at Paullina in O'Brien Co. (DK)[ties 2nd latest] were both late and somewhat west of its usual range.
- Mourning Warbler:** All: Singles at A. A. Call S.P. on 1 Jun (MCK), Moorehead P. on 2 Jun (PE), and Ames on 3 Jun (PM) were not unexpected with this years late spring.
- Hooded Warbler:** Singles reported in Allamakee (2 sites), Jones, Warren (2 sites), and Winneshiek counties were in its usual range. One along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 13 Jun (LAS, THK) was out of range.
- Canada Warbler:** One near Colesburg on 27 Jun (WN) was the only report. Despite intensive searching, none were found at White Pine Hollow (WN).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: Singles at Matsell Bridge A. in Linn Co. on 30 Jun (DLD) and at Pleasant Creek Rec. A. on 8 Jul (DLD).
- Summer Tanager:** Singles in Fremont, Lucas, and Van Buren counties were the only reports.
- Scarlet Tanager:** From 1 to 8 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Clay, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fremont, Hancock, Hardin, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Mills, Polk, Van Buren, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties, indicating that it occurs statewide.
- Blue Grosbeak:** One or 2 were found in Fremont, Mills, O'Brien, Pottawattamie, Sioux, and Woodbury counties.

- Lazuli Bunting:** A male was seen along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 1 and 2 Jun (*LAS, *JLF).
- Dickcissel:** Several commented that Dickcissels were common (DLD, BE) or abundant (JV) this summer while Kenne suggested that although they were common on good habitat, less of that habitat was available this year.
- Lark Sparrow:** One or 2 were found in Fremont, Johnson, and Linn counties.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Engebretsen said it was common in Polk County and noted that it was found in grassy areas along new suburban housing developments.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Besides the usual birds at L. Sugema A. in Van Buren Co., small populations were found in similar habitat in Lee and Davis counties (PMe). Also, from 17 Jun to 14 Jul, at least 7 males were singing at Pleasant Creek Rec. A. (DLD, DHo), a new site for the species.
- White-throated Sparrow:** One at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 3 Jun (ETh) was the only report.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** One in Cedar Rapids on 23 Jun (*RBr) was the first summer report [record latest].
- Bobolink:** Both Van Dyk in Sioux Co. and Petersen in eastern Iowa suggested numbers were down.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** One at Missouri Valley in Harrison Co. on 4 Jul (RRe) was west of its usual range.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** An active colony at a restored wetland at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (HZ) indicates the ability of this species to colonize such sites.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** From 1 to 12 were found in Boone, Carroll, Clay, Fremont, Greene, Hamilton, Polk, Sac, and Wayne counties. Nearly all were associated with a wetland.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** See accounts for Wood Thrush and Blue-winged Warbler.
- Orchard Oriole:** From 1 to 6 were found in Allamakee, Cass (nest, MAP), Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Harrison, Jasper, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Lyon, Mills, Monona, O'Brien, Plymouth, Sioux, Winneshiek (fledged young, DeC), and Woodbury counties.
- Red Crossbill:** Starting with 10 adults and juveniles at Iowa City on 13 Jul (THK*, see cover photo), there was an unprecedented summertime invasion of this species. Up to 20 were at Postville in Allamakee Co. from 16-21 Jul (Gloria Looney fide DeC), 12 were in Algona from 19 to 29 Jul (MCK), from 2 to 6 were near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. from 20 to 25 Jul (Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Amendt fide DK), 15 were at Spencer from 20 to 24 Jul (L. Becker fide LAS) and 2 females/juveniles were in Ames on 24 Jul (Steve Maloy, JJD). These were the first summer reports of this nomadic species in Iowa since 1991.
- Pine Siskin:** All: Two at E. Okoboji on 2 Jun and 1 there until 12 Jul (ETh), 2 in Ames from 10-14 Jun (PM), and 3 in Des Moines on 3 Jun and 1 there until 21 Jun (BE) all may have been nesting although no evidence was presented. One was at a feeder in St. Olaf in Clayton Co. on 21 Jul (LSt).

CONTRIBUTORS

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Neil Bernstein (NBe), Cedar Rapids; Rob Bradley (RBr), Cedar Rapids; Aaron Brees (ABr), Corydon; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Andy Clement (AC), St. Louis, MO; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Ames; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Denise Friedrich (DF), Ames; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Patricia Giles (PG), Daryl Howell (DHo), Indianola; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Tom N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Darwin Koenig (DK), Paullina; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Pete Melde (PMe), Marshalltown; Ron Munkel (RMu), Boone; William Norris (WN), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Russ Reisz (RRe), Missouri Valley; Pat Schlarbaum (PSc), Ames; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Bill Schuster (BSc), Huxley; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Larry Stone (LSt), St. Olaf; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE AND JIM SINCLAIR

On 3 September 1995, while birding the large point area on the west side of Whitebreast Bay on the south side of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County, we saw an adult male Bullock's Oriole. We found the bird 50 feet up in the top of a tree at about 8:35 a.m. and watched it for less than a minute.

The bird then flew a short distance, and we were unable to relocate it. Although the observation was brief, the bird was seen well and under good viewing conditions. Several Baltimore Orioles in the same general area allowed for comparisons. The bird had the typical black and orange color pattern of an oriole. The throat was solid black, extending downward to the breast in a broad bib. The face was bright orange with a narrow black line through the eye and a black crown. The mantle and wings were also black except for a large, white patch on the secondary coverts. The remainder of the underparts and rump were orange. The tail was not seen well but appeared dark from our angle. These features are those of an adult male Bullock's Oriole. We also considered the possibility of a Baltimore X Bullock's Oriole hybrid. Such birds usually have a less distinct white wing patch (sometimes irregularly marked with black) and a more muted face pattern that lacks a dark line through the eye.

Recently, the American Ornithologists' Union split the Northern Oriole into two species: Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. Baltimore Oriole is a common migrant and summer resident throughout Iowa. The only record of a Bullock's Oriole in Iowa is one at Clemons in Marshall County on 12 May 1993 (*Iowa Bird Life* 63:80).

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014 and 810 North B St., Indianola, IA 50125

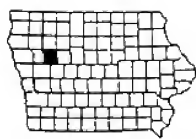
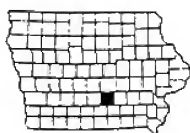
LONG-BILLED CURLEW IN SAC COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

On the evening of 22 May 1995, my son Joshua and I were bird watching at the settling pond on the southeastern corner of Black Hawk Lake in Sac County. On the mudflat in front of us we could see several hundred gulls and terns. As we approached them, an alarm call was sounded and suddenly these birds and a smaller number of shorebirds were in the air.

As the birds circled us, several large shorebirds fell into line and were identified as Marbled Godwits. A large bird approached and attempted to fall in line with the godwits. Although the bird looked similar to the godwits in that it was tannish brown in color and possessed cinnamon wing linings, its large body size, 15 to 20 percent larger than the godwits, and long decurved bill that looked to be at least twice as large as that of the godwit, identified this bird as a curlew. The birds flew in formation for a few minutes before flying directly overhead and disappearing to the north.

After returning to my car I wrote down my observations and began the process of identification. Bristle-thighed Curlew and Whimbrel were eliminated by body size, bill length, and coloration. The Far Eastern Curlew possesses a long decurved bill,



but its small size and white wing linings eliminated this possibility. The Eurasian Curlew, though the right size, has white wing linings and white rump, which eliminated it. The clinching field mark was the ascending killdeer-like "curlee" call that was heard repeatedly as this bird was in the air. The above features combined with the call confirmed my suspicion that this was a Long-billed Curlew.

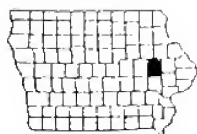
Upon returning home, I made several phone calls to report my finding. Unfortunately by the time I arrived home it was dark and anyone interested in searching for the bird would have to wait until the next day. Though several people looked for the bird, it was not relocated. Long-billed Curlews once nested on the prairies of northwestern Iowa but disappeared in the late 1800s. This is only the fourth record of this species in Iowa since 1960, all from western Iowa.

407 Court, Ida Grove, IA 51445

CLARK'S GREBE AT PLEASANT CREEK

CHRIS EDWARDS

When I arrived at Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area in Linn County on the morning of 12 November 1995, Alan Martin of Cedar Rapids was searching for a large grebe which he had observed minutes earlier. We quickly relocated the bird and, during the next hour, we identified it as an adult Clark's Grebe based primarily on bill coloration and facial pattern.



The bird had a very long, slender neck and in overall size was approximately the same length as a nearby male White-winged Scoter. The bright orange-yellow bill was long, thin, and straight. The forehead, crown, nape, and hindneck were black, with the black of the crown extending down the side of the face to the top edge of the eye. The eyes were reddish and surrounded by white except for the top edge. The lores were bright white with a thin dark line underneath between the bill and the eye (see Fig. 1). The back was dark gray with some white flecking, and the sides were light gray with much white mottling. The throat, breast, and belly were white. The uppersides of the wings were dark gray with white wing stripes.

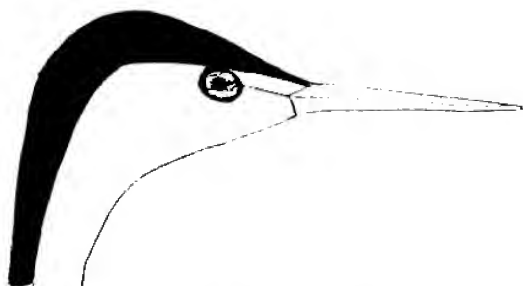


Fig. 1. Clark's Grebe, Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, 12 November 1995. Drawing by Chris Edwards.

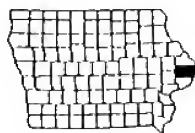
I observed the bird for several hours as it alternated periods of resting with active swimming and diving. It was seen by many other birders and was last reported on 14 November. There are five other Iowa records for Clark's Grebe since 1983, including three in May and one each in October and November (Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 65:86, 1995).

85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317

SABINE'S GULL AT CLINTON

PETER C. PETERSEN

On 22 October 1995, Dennis Carter, Mary Lou, and I were birding at Lock and Dam 13 on the north edge of Clinton. The lock access is from Illinois, and the lock lies about 1 mile from the Iowa shoreline and about 1.5 miles from the Illinois shoreline. In mid-morning, we observed a small gull flying over the channel just upstream from the lock. It was much smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls which were common in the area. It displayed the classic "W" pattern with the six outer primaries and their coverts black, the remaining primaries and the secondaries white to the carpal joint, and most of the secondary coverts grayish-brown. The tail was notched white with a black subterminal band. The head was whitish with a brownish smudge behind the eye and on top off the head; the bill appeared entirely black. Its flight was very light for a gull. The closest observation was from about 80 m, and the bird was in flight for the entire observation. The sky was clear, and the sun behind us. After about two minutes, the bird flew behind a barge coming into the locks toward the Iowa shore and was not seen again. This is the first report of this species from Clinton County.

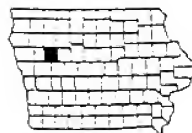


235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

LITTLE GULL IN SAC COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

On the morning of 21 April 1996 I was driving by the southeastern corner of Black Hawk Lake in Sac County when I noticed a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. As has been my habit for the last three years, I stopped to look them over for anything unusual. Almost immediately, a small, hooded gull caught my attention. The following observations were made over a 23-minute period from an estimated 30-100 feet.



The bird was small, an estimated 20 percent smaller than Bonaparte's Gull, with a light gray mantle, rounded wings, stocky appearance. The undersides of the wings were a dark gray/black in color with a white trailing edge to the wings. The contrast between the light gray top and dark underwing was prominent.

The head appeared to be smaller than that of a Bonaparte's Gull and possessed a hood with no eye ring. The bill was black, and the feet were dark red. The bird sometimes hovered over the water and moved its feet giving the appearance of running in place. Occasionally in this position the bird dipped its bill into the water.

The other five black-hooded gulls seen in Iowa were eliminated for a variety of reasons. Franklin's and Laughing gulls are larger and darker mantled with a prominent eye ring. Sabine's Gull has a bicolored bill, forked tail, and a different wing pattern. Bonaparte's Gull is slightly darker mantled and larger, with more angular looking wings and a white leading edge to the wings. The Black-headed Gull looks like a bigger version of the Bonaparte's Gull with a dark brown hood and red bill.

After I returned home, I made several phone calls and returned in the late afternoon to search for the bird again. Though I was unable to relocate the bird, Jim Fuller

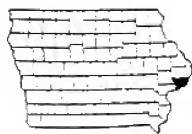
found the bird the next day. This is the fifth record of this European species for Iowa, with three fall records and two spring records.

407 Court, Ida Grove, IA 51445

LAUGHING GULL IN SCOTT COUNTY

PETER C. PETERSEN

On the afternoon of 30 September 1995, I received a call from Dan Dorrance that he had just seen a first winter plumage Laughing Gull at Hampton, Illinois, below Lock 14 on the Mississippi River. Just after 5:00 p.m., Mary Lou and I drove to Hampton but located nothing but Ring-billed Gulls. I scoped the Iowa shore and found a group of gulls on a rock and sand bar at the mouth of Spencer Creek at the east edge of Pleasant Valley, Iowa. One bird was smaller and had a dark grayish hind crown. We quickly crossed the interstate 80 bridge and drove to a lane next to the mouth of Spencer Creek. We walked to within about 75 m. of the birds and viewed them with a Kowa scope at about 30 power for about five minutes from 6:00 p.m. One gull was slightly smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. It had a heavy pointed black bill and gray-brown smudge on the hind crown. In size it was just smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The mantle was gray and the primaries black with no white tips. The legs were black and the tail ended in a black band. The sky was overcast, and a strong rain cell was just west of us. The birds flew as the wind from the rain cell reached us and we noted black secondaries with a white rear edge and brownish coverts. The tail band was complete with no white edge. We used 10 x 40 and 7 x 35 binoculars to observe the birds in flight. They all flew west to the usual night roost between Bettendorf and Moline. On 2 October I had a chance to check the night roost early in the morning but found only Ring-billed and Franklin gulls present. This is the first report of a Laughing Gull in Scott County.



235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

I.O.U. BUSINESS SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Carol Thompson, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary
Burlington, 18 May 1996, 3:20-4:35 p.m.

On behalf of the I.O.U., Thompson thanked Chuck Fuller for his work on local arrangements for the meeting.

It was moved (Gode, seconded by Zaletel) that the minutes of the fall business meeting be approved. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report for 1995 was distributed. It showed an excess of support and revenues over expenses of \$3,745.88.

Committee Reports

Records: Tom Kent reported that a new official list of Iowa birds will be published this year. Jim Fuller is now a member of this committee through 2002.

Membership: Beth Brown reported that she is attempting to get the Iowa Birdline on public radio. There are two vacancies on this committee; the board will act on them after the business meeting. The I.O.U. display was shown. This committee is in charge of the display.

Publications: No report. There is one vacancy on this committee.

Library-Historical: An ad hoc committee is currently looking at the future of this committee. Interested people should contact Bud Gode. Hank Zaletel is currently archiving many I.O.U. materials at the Iowa State University Library.

Environmental: Jim Dinsmore shared a letter sent to the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Project as an example of what this committee might do.

Big Day: Members were asked for opinions concerning Big Day. It was suggested to either raise money for specific projects rather than for the endowment fund, or just have the competition and not have this as a money raising event. Suggestions will go back to the committee.

Spring Count: Pete Petersen reported that the count was held on 11 May 1996 and that reports should be sent to him.

Educational: Carol Thompson reported on a proposal for a REAP grant for the development of a middle school curriculum called, "Birds of Two Worlds." The I.O.U. has agreed to a \$2,000 cash match as part of the proposal. Hank Zaletel reported that revisions are being made to the original educational booklet written for elementary grades. Reprinting cost will be approximately \$3,000.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the atlas will be to press by fall. Cover artwork was shown.

Partners in Flight: Carol Thompson reported that the I.O.U. will have representatives at meetings when possible. The group is working on developing a plan of action.

Field Trips: Field trips are planned for 21 September to Sweet Marsh and 11 November to northeastern Iowa. Participation was low for the spring field trips. New committee members are needed.

Birdline: Jim Fuller reported that 9,130 calls were received in 1995. He encouraged members to report unusual birds and reminded callers to be aware that all calls are recorded.

I.O.U. Web Page: Ann Johnson would like to have material submitted to be included on the page.

Upcoming Meetings: The fall 1996 meeting will be 6-8 September at the Lime Creek Nature Center in Mason City. The tri-state spring meeting will be at Sioux City on 16-18 May 1997. Iowa City is the proposed location for the fall 1997 meeting. The 75th anniversary meeting is proposed for spring 1998 in Ames.

New Business

Election of Officers: The following were elected to office: Jim Scheib, treasurer; Mary Kuhlman, secretary; and Beth Brown and Dan Dorrance, Board of Directors.

Jim Dinsmore commended Pam Allen for her fine work as treasurer.

Pete Petersen was proposed for honorary membership in I.O.U. (Dinsmore, seconded by Porter). Motion carried.

Feeder Survey: Feeder survey data have not been processed for two years because of funding cuts at the DNR. In order to cover costs, DNR plans to charge \$1.00 to participate in the survey. It was moved (Zaletel, seconded by Porter) that I.O.U. pay for data entry for the last two years and for next year, and that no fee be charged for participation in the survey. Motion carried. Data entry will be done at Iowa State and costs \$500 per year. \$200 has been donated to I.O.U. for the project. Tom Kent suggested that better use be made of the data.

CB Channel: Little interest has been shown in establishing a CB channel for use during field trips. It was suggested that cellular phones be used instead.

Tick Survey: Beth Brown reported that ticks may be sent to Dr. Wayne Rowley, Department of Entomology, Iowa State University, Ames 50011 for a research project.

Announcements

Jim Dinsmore reported that the Watchable Wildlife Guide has been published. He also encouraged members to support wildlife art featuring nongame species like the work Larry Zach did for the cover of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Dinsmore also announced that the Iowa Academy of Science awarded Myrle Burk Scholarships to David Horn, William Norris, and Wendy Reed, all Ph. D. students at Iowa State University and Brenda Peltz, a M.S. student at the University of Northern Iowa. Each student is also awarded membership in the I.O.U.

FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Carol Thompson, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary
Mason City, 8 September 1996

The treasurer's report for the period 1 January through 31 August 1996 was distributed. It showed an excess of expenses over revenues and support of \$45.25.

Committee Reports

Records: Tom Kent reported that the new Iowa checklist will be published in the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Chris Edwards is now serving on this committee.

Membership: No report. The new membership brochure is available.

Publications: Ann Barker reported that Harold White is the new chairman of this committee.

Library-Historical: Volunteers are still needed for this committee.

Environmental: No new activity. A short discussion ensued to clarify the role of the committee.

Big Day: Reid Allen announced the results of the May 1996 competition. The team of Walsh and Armstrong came in second and the team of Moeller, Evans, and Petersen took first place. No Big Day events will be planned for the next few years.

Spring Count: Pete Petersen reported that 14 counties participated.

Educational Booklet Promotion: Work on revising the booklet continues.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Thompson reported that the book is at the printer and should be published by Christmas 1996. Members can adopt a book to be placed in school libraries for \$12.50. Prints of the cover artwork are available for purchase at wildlife art galleries. The artist donated the design for the cover.

Partners in Flight: No report.

Field Trips: Planned trips are 21 September to Snake Creek Marsh and 16 November to Allamakee County. Out of state trips are being considered. Volunteers are needed for this committee.

Birdline: No report.

Old Business

Web Page: Ann Johnson requested short descriptions and photos of favorite birding areas around the state to be put on the web.

Upcoming Meetings: The spring 1997 meeting will be held at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City, Nebraska on 16-18 May. Ken Kaufman will be the banquet speaker. This is a tri-state meeting with Nebraska and South Dakota. Iowa City will be the site of the fall 1997 meeting. Ames will host the 75th anniversary meeting in the spring of 1998.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Jim Dinsmore announced that E. O. Wilson will speak on biodiversity at Iowa State on 12 September. Thompson reminded members that the I.O.U. display is available.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Carol Thompson, presiding; Mary Kuhlman, secretary
Mason City, 8 September 1996, 3:50-4:00 p.m.

Present: Carol Thompson, Ann Barker, Bud Gode, Dan Dorrance, Beth Brown, Mary Kuhlman

It was moved (Gode, seconded by Barker) to approve Matt Kenne for a six-year term on the Records Committee beginning in 1997. Motion carried.

It was moved (Gode, seconded by Brown) to approve Ron Muilenberg and Jim Durbin for terms on the Publications Committee. Muilenberg will serve from 1996 through 2001 and Durbin from 1997 through 2002. Motion carried.

It was moved (Barker, seconded by Gode) to purchase the software needed for bulk mailing the newsletter. Motion carried.

It was moved (Gode, seconded by Barker) to approve Hank Zaletel and Dennis Carter for five-year terms on the Library Historical Committee. Motion carried. Zaletel will begin in 1997 and Carter in 1996.

The next board meeting will be at 10 a.m. on 3 November at the Happy Chef in Tama.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I--PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (hereafter I.O.U.) shall be to encourage interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds and to unite all those persons who have this interest in common.

Section 2. The I.O.U. will collect and preserve knowledge on the occurrence of birds in Iowa, publish a journal appropriate to its purposes, conduct meetings of its members, and promote bird study in Iowa.

Section 3. The I.O.U. is organized for educational and scientific purposes.

ARTICLE II--MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any individual subscribing to the purposes of the I.O.U..

Section 2. All individual members shall have the right to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office and to serve on committees.

Section 3. Institutions such as libraries, schools, and organizations may subscribe to I.O.U. publications, but are not eligible for membership.

Section 4. Dues and subscription rates shall be proposed annually by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership.

Section 5. All memberships shall be on an individual basis, and dues may be established as follows:

A. Regular--regular dues on calendar year basis.

B. Life--dues prepaid for life of member in one payment or installment payments as established by the Board.

C. Contributing--Any member contributing funds to the I.O.U. above the rate set for regular membership.

D. Honorary--member for life without dues.

Section 6. A regular member who is the spouse or child (under age 18) of another regular member may have a reduced rate of dues if publications are shared.

Section 7. Honorary membership may be conferred by 3/4 vote of members at the first annual meeting of year to persons who have made longstanding contributions to the I.O.U. or its objectives.

Section 8. Membership shall be on a calendar year basis. Dues are payable on or before January 1 of each calendar year.

Section 9. The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of 2/3 of all the members of the Board, may suspend, expel, or reinstate a member for cause after an appropriate hearing.

Section 10. Any member may resign by giving written notice to the Treasurer, but such resignation shall not relieve the member of the obligation to pay any dues or other obligations theretofore accrued and unpaid.

ARTICLE III--THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The affairs of the I.O.U. shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board shall consist of the four elected officers, and five elected directors.

Section 3. Directors shall serve staggered two-year terms with three directors to be elected at the same meeting as the President and Vice President, and two directors to be elected when the Secretary and Treasurer are elected. A retiring President shall be invited to be a nominee as a candidate for director at the time that three directors are elected. Directors shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the meeting at which election took place.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be not less than 2/3 of the members of the Board. Business may be conducted through correspondence when expedient, and the results of any votes or other actions shall be appended to the minutes of the preceding Board meeting.

Section 5. There shall be at least two Board meetings each calendar year. Special meetings of the Board may be called at the request of the President or any two Directors. Written notice of the date and agenda of any special meeting must be made to each board member at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Section 6. A director may be removed for incapacity or unexcused absences by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Any vacancy occurring in the Board may be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the remaining board members, though less than a quorum.

Section 8. Board meetings shall be open to any I.O.U. member. A portion of a meeting may be closed by 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the I.O.U. shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected for a term of two years with President and Vice President to be elected at one election and Secretary and Treasurer to be elected at the next election. After serving two consecutive terms (excluding partial terms), a member is not eligible for reelection to the same office until one full term has elapsed. Terms begin at the end of the meeting at which election occurred.

Section 3. Any vacancy occurring in an office may be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, except that the Vice President shall succeed the President.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed for incapacity or unexcused absences by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The President shall be the principal officer and leader of the I.O.U. and shall in general supervise and control the business and activities of the I.O.U. The President shall preside at all meetings of the I.O.U. and its Board of Directors; vote only to break or make a tie; exercise general supervision over the interests and welfare of the I.O.U.; appoint with approval of the Board all committees and chairpersons except as otherwise specified; call all meetings of the I.O.U. and the Board of Directors; and perform such duties as are required by the Board of Directors, the membership, or by law or regulation.

Section 6. The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President, and accept at least one other responsibility as agreed upon by the President and the Vice President.

Section 7. The Secretary shall take and maintain current minutes of all meetings of the I.O.U. and the Board of Directors; provide minutes in a timely fashion to the I.O.U. and the Board as determined by the President; maintain the official documents

such as the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution; maintain current and historical rosters of all officers, directors, committees and administrative personnel; maintain a chronological list of motions passed by the membership or the Board of Directors; be responsible for official correspondence of the I.O.U and its Board; and perform other such normal secretarial duties as assigned by the President or the Board.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall receive, account for, and deposit all funds of the I.O.U in a bank or other appropriate institution, as directed by the Board of Directors; make authorized disbursements by the issuance of checks; keep current an accurate membership directory; maintain an appropriate financial record which shall be subject to annual audit as directed by the Board; prepare and submit such financial statements or reports as required by laws or regulations and/or requested by the President, Board of Directors, or the membership; and perform other such duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V--COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees shall be standing or ad hoc. Standing Committees shall include Membership, Records, Publications, and Historical/Library. Appointments to standing committee shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Ad hoc committees may be created or dissolved by the President, and such committees shall dissolve at the end of the term of that President. The Board of Directors or the membership voting at a meeting may require the creation or dissolution of an ad hoc committee.

Section 2. Standing committees shall operate under by-laws approved by the Board of Directors and not inconsistent with this constitution. The by-laws for each standing committee shall include a mechanism for regular turnover of committee members. Each standing committee shall submit an annual prospective budget to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. A majority of a whole committee shall constitute a quorum. The actions of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the actions of the committee, unless otherwise prescribed by a committee's charge or its by-laws.

Section 4. Standing committees report to the Board of Directors. Ad hoc committees report to the President, or to the body (Board of Directors or membership) that required their creation.

ARTICLE VI--ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Section 1. Major administrative positions may be established by the Board of Directors subject to approval by the membership. A proposal for establishment of such a position should include a description of any compensation or other benefits to the person who would occupy the position and a statement as to whether the position will report to the Board of Directors or to a standing committee.

Section 2. Each administrative position shall have a job description, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Personnel shall be appointed to administrative positions in a manner specified by the Board of Directors. If a position reports to a standing committee, that committee shall make recommendations for filling the position.

Section 4. Appointment to other than temporary positions shall be formally reviewed at least every five years and a report submitted to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Authority to create and appoint persons to minor administrative positions may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII--MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the I.O.U. shall be held once in each half of the calendar year. The schedule and program of general membership meetings shall be the responsibility of the President and Vice President with the assistance of the Board of Directors and a local committee. Each regular meeting shall include a business meeting. Notice of the time and place of the regular meetings shall be sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Special business meetings may be called by the President, Board of Directors, or 20 members, providing that notice of the time, place, and agenda be sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3. The date and place of regular meetings shall be set by the Board of Directors at least 6 months in advance of the meeting, unless the date and/or place has been set by a vote of the members at a regular meeting.

Section 4. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be the active members present at any regular or special meeting, provided the number shall be not less than 15.

Section 5. Under special circumstances as determined by a vote of the Board of Directors, business may be carried out by a mail ballot sent to each member.

Section 6. Non-business meetings and other activities consistent with the objectives of the I.O.U. may be arranged or co-sponsored as needed by the President or Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII--NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. A nominating committee consisting of three members, past or outgoing officers or directors when feasible, shall be appointed by the president with approval of the Board of Directors at the first annual meeting of the year with one member designated as chair.

Section 2. The nominating committee shall nominate a slate of one or more candidates who are willing to serve, if elected, for each available elected position and shall distribute the printed slate to all members at least three weeks prior to the meeting at which elections will be held.

Section 3. Elections shall be held during the initial session of the business meeting at the first regular meeting of the year.

Section 4. The order of election shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board members. The election for each position shall be carried out separately except for the election of Board members, which shall be considered together. In each case, the presiding officer shall ask for additional nominations from the floor and not in any way allow or suggest limitation of nominations until no more are forthcoming. In order to be nominated at the meeting, the nominee must agree to serve, either by prior consent to the nominator or directly at the meeting. If only one person is nominated or, in the case of the Board of Directors, the number matches the number of positions available, the presiding officer shall declare such persons elected. Otherwise, a vote shall be taken by secret ballot among members present at the meeting. A candidate receiving a majority vote of those voting is elected. If needed, a runoff vote will be among the two candidates with the most votes (and ties). In the election for Board positions, each member present may vote for as many candidates as there are positions available. If needed, the runoff vote will be among twice as many candidates (and ties) as there are positions left to be filled.

ARTICLE IX--FINANCES AND ASSETS

Section 1. The I.O.U. shall not engage in deficit spending unless specifically approved by the membership.

Section 2. The financial records of the I.O.U. shall be audited yearly by two persons other than the Treasurer and appointed by the President, at least one of whom is a member of the I.O.U.. The examination should evaluate the accuracy and appropriateness of the records and should evaluate the banking and investment procedures of the I.O.U..

Section 3. The I.O.U. shall provide appropriate bonding for the Treasurer.

Section 4. All monies, funds, materials, and other property or assets belonging to and/or received by the I.O.U. shall be cared for and disposed of as prescribed by the Board of Directors unless otherwise specified within this constitution.

Section 5. Any compensation, direct or indirect, shall be established prior to any individual's appointment to an administrative position. Any conflict of interest, real or potential, in the appointment or election of an individual to an administrative position, office, or seat on the Board of Directors shall be recognized and dealt with appropriately by the Board of Directors prior to the appointment or election or during the term if the need arises.

ARTICLE X--AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members attending a regularly scheduled meeting of the I.O.U., provided a quorum is present and the exact text of the proposed amendment has been sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors, a designated constitution committee, or by 5 members. Validly proposed amendments will be distributed with a regular publication of the I.O.U..

ARTICLE XI--DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The I.O.U. may be dissolved at any time by a 2/3 vote of the members present at a special meeting of the I.O.U. called for that stated purpose.

Section 2. Upon dissolution of the I.O.U., the officers shall make provision for payment of all liabilities of the I.O.U. and shall dispose of all remaining assets of the I.O.U. for the purposes of the I.O.U., or to such organization(s) operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt organization under the 1954 section 501 (c) (3) Code of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Code), as the officers shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by the proper Court in an appropriate manner.

Approved by vote of the general membership on 18 May 1985. Amendments to Article IV, Section 2 and Article VIII, Section 4 were approved by the membership on 29 October 1994.

BOOK REVIEW

Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Laura S. Jackson, Bruce L. Ehresman and James J. Dinsmore. Falcon Press, Helena, Montana, 1995, 96 pp., \$8.95. This volume, one in a series of Watchable Wildlife Program books sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife, is a welcome addition to the various books and guides each of us carries as we travel the state pursuing our hobby. Detailing 77 of Iowa's premier natural areas, this guide provides concise information and directions which will ensure successful outings for the traveling birder.

The bulk of this book consists of the site guides, organized into four major biogeographical regions of Iowa. Each section begins with an outline of the major biological and geological features of that particular region and a map which includes major highways and the location of the various sites. Each site is then described, including size, wildlife viewing information, directions on how to locate each site, and concluding with a series of symbols indicating facilities and activities available. The site descriptions are, of necessity, concise; however, the authors provide enough information to guide you to at least one good area at each site and, when available, provide information on other sources such as maps and brochures. The site guides are complemented with a series of excellent photographs and particularly fine drawings by Jo Moore.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is a principal sponsor of this publication and can proudly count all four authors as members. By increasing awareness and accessibility of Iowa's natural heritage, this volume is another step towards increased appreciation and protection for our wildlife. Pick up a copy of this book and as you set out on your next road trip watch for the distinctive binocular roadside markers that indicate a wildlife viewing area - Enjoy!--Jim Sinclair, 810 North B Street, Indianola, IA 50125

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Ross Silcock, who has written the Winter Field Reports section of *Iowa Bird Life* since 1984-85 and has compiled the Christmas Bird Counts since 1977 has asked to be replaced. During his 20-year tenure of compiling the Christmas Bird Counts, Ross has made some significant changes in the format of those reports that make them more usable for people who work with the data. Likewise, during the 11 years he has compiled the Winter Field Reports, his insights into the patterns of occurrence of many of our irruptive species have added greatly to our knowledge of Iowa's birds. We all are indebted to Ross for the many hours of work he has put into this position and his willingness to share his extensive knowledge of Iowa's birds. I am sure the membership will join me in thanking him for his long and dedicated service.

To replace Ross, I have asked Bob Cecil to write the Winter Field Reports and Stephen J. Dinsmore to write the Christmas Bird Count article. Both have agreed to accept these positions. Both have been long-time contributors to the Field Reports, have served on the I.O.U. Records Committee, and have broad knowledge of Iowa's birds. I think we are fortunate to find such qualified individuals to fill these important positions. I hope that all of you will continue to send your reports to them as you have to Ross in the past. Their addresses are listed on the back cover of this issue. J.J.D.



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using soy ink



The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311

James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Peter C. Petersen, Spring Bird Count Editor, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Carol Thompson, President (1997), 1116 Muscatine Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240

Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1997), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1998), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Jim Scheib, Treasurer (1998), 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

Other members of the Board of Directors: Ann Barker (1997), Beth Brown (1998), Dan Dorrance (1998), O. J. (Bud) Gode (1997), and Matthew C. Kenne (1997).

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg

Records: Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Tanya Bray, Ray Cummins, Chris Edwards, Ann Johnson, Francis L. Moore, Ross Silcock.

Membership: Beth Brown (chair), Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib.

Library/Historical: Dennis Carter, Hank Zaletel.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

16-18 May 1997, Sioux City-joint with South Dakota and Nebraska
Fall 1997, Iowa City
Spring 1998, Ames

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- *Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)
- *Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)
- *Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)
- *Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I. O. U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

- *Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- *Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

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